



US Army Corps  
of Engineers  
Huntsville Center

Point of Contact  
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## Environmental and Munitions Center of Expertise (EM CX)

### *CERCLA Five-Year Reviews: Assessing Site Protectiveness*

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### Background

**F**ive-year reviews are required whenever a Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) response action results in hazardous materials remaining on site, above levels that allow for unlimited use and exposure. A five-year review is intended to evaluate whether the remedial action remains protective of human health and the environment. Five-year reviews answer **three primary questions**:

- Is the remedy functioning as intended by the decision documents?
- Are the exposure assumptions, toxicity data, cleanup levels and remedial objectives used at the time of the remedy selection still valid?
- Has any other information come to light that could call into question the protectiveness of the remedy?



Photo by Tommy Dile

A technician prepares to go underground to inspect a tank at Kincheloe Air Force Base, a formerly used defense site in Kinross, Mich.

### Capabilities and Support

Since 1998, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has conducted about 150 five-year reviews for our customers. By using capable in-house technical staff, with quality assurance support from the Environmental and Munitions Center of Expertise (EM CX), the Corps has provided thorough and cost effective reviews.

Lessons learned during these site reviews have provided valuable insight regarding the effectiveness of various remedies and typical system deficiencies.



Photo by Harry Weddington

**A Corps of Engineers contractor samples the sewage in a lagoon at Holloman Air Force Base in Alamogordo, N.M.**

### Costs

Typically, the cost to conduct a five-year review ranges from \$30,000 to \$50,000, depending on site complexity. This includes senior staff labor and travel.

### For More Information

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